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Attorney Docket No. B45110

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bruck, et al.

23 March 2000

International App. No.: PCT/EP98/06040

Group Art Unit No.: Unknown

International Filing Date: 17 September 1998

Examiner: Unknown

For: FUSION PROTEINS COMPRISING HIV-1 TAT AND/OR NEF PROTEINS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Box: PCT

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of this application, applicants respectfully request amendment of the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-31

Please add new claims 32-77.

32.

A vaccine composition which comprises a protein comprising

- (a) an HIV Tat protein or derivative thereof linked to either (i) a fusion partner or (ii) an HIV Nef protein or derivative thereof; or
- (b) an HIV Nef protein or derivative thereof linked to either (i) a fusion partner or (ii) an HIV Tat protein or derivative thereof; or
- (c) an HIV Nef protein or derivative thereof linked to an HIV Tat protein or derivative thereof and a fusion partner,

in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

33.

A composition as claimed in claim 32, comprising a Tat-Nef fusion protein or derivative thereof.

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